

OGDENSBURGH

---

by

B. J. Mendelson

Copyright © 2008,  
by B. J. Mendelson

Albany, New York, 12222  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Brandon.Mendelson@ymail.com](mailto:Brandon.Mendelson@ymail.com)

### Cast Of Characters

<u>Harrison Blake:</u>	Son, Late 50's
<u>Ellen Blake:</u>	Mother, 80's
<u>Phillip Blake:</u>	Father, 80's

### Scene

On the pier of Ogdensburgh, New York, overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

### Time

Now.

ACT IScene 1

SETTING: Outside on Ogdensburgh's waterfront, Ellen and Phillip are sitting next to each other, facing out toward the St. Lawrence river.

AT RISE: Morning. Harrison is sitting in front of the stage.

(HARRISON  
is calling  
on his  
cellphone.  
)

HARRISON

I lost my job with the Yankees ... I'm sure you heard why. I used what's left of the money on bail and ... the rest of it went to gas. I should be there in an hour or so. No rush.

(HARRISON  
sits down  
at the  
front of  
the stage  
and  
watches  
PHILLIP  
and  
ELLEN)

PHILLIP

Ellen. If he wasn't our only kid I'd stuff him in a bag and throw him in the St. Lawrence.

ELLEN

I know dear.

PHILLIP

He's going to ask to move in. We're too old to take care of him. We can't even take care of us!

ELLEN

Harrison wouldn't do that. He's a good boy --

PHILLIP

The hell he is! How do you get into a fist fight with Derek Jeter? How do you get into a fist fight at a fundraiser for starving orphans?

ELLEN

Maybe Mr. Jeter had too much to drink.

PHILLIP

At a fundraiser for starving orphans? Jeter is like the second coming of Christ for Yankee fans.

ELLEN

Phil ... you know how I feel about jokes involving our lord.

PHILLIP

Your lord.

ELLEN

Well at least Christians have Heaven. What do you have? Instant funerals and an eternity of dirt ... You know ... It's not too late to accept Jesus Christ as --

PHILLIP

Ellen!

ELLEN

I'm kidding.

PHILLIP

You? You never kid or laugh. How many comedians did we see in Syracuse this year?

ELLEN

Fifteen.

PHILLIP

And of those fifteen, how many did yo laugh at?

ELLEN

None.

PHILLIP

You're going to be 82 tomorrow. Any reason why you've decided to start kidding now?

ELLEN (Sarcastically)

We don't have the luxury of the lord making us vanish along with our problems. I laugh to keep from crying.

PHILLIP

Another joke. It's either a joke or a stroke with this one ... a stroke. A stroke we can't afford. I like your vanishing idea better. That sounds like a plan to me.

(The  
phone  
starts to  
ring.  
It's  
HARRISON  
calling  
again.)

PHILLIP

Why do we even have cell phones? We're eighty! Who are we going to call?

ELLEN

Our deadbeat son of course. Why don't you answer it?

PHILLIP

Forget that, Ellen. Harry will leave a message.

ELLEN

What will we tell him tonight?

PHILLIP

The truth.

ELLEN (Excited)

The truth?

PHILLIP

Of course.

ELLEN (Excited)

You mean he can stay with us?

PHILLIP

No. ... I'm going to call and tell him we're too old to figure out voice mail. Then I'll say we're going out of town. Maybe we'll pull a disappearing act for a while until he takes a hint.

ELLEN

Oh Phil, it would be nice to have him here. I'd have someone to take care of again.

PHILLIP (Serious)

Ellen, we tell him to get the hell out of here. That's what we have to tell him.



ELLEN

Language dear.

PHILLIP

I mean it Ellen. He can't live in Ogdensburgh. This place is dead, we're just too busy to bury it. People could vanish here and the world would never know.

ELLEN

We're still here after all these years. Why can't he be here with us?

PHILLIP

How many fifty year olds do you know live with their parents?

ELLEN

These are trying times.

PHILLIP

Exactly ... Exactly. There's nothing here for him. We're here because we've never known anything else. He's going to come up here and see Canada, a Wal-Mart, and a dead city.

ELLEN

But we'll both be here too. Who knows, maybe some of our friends might be able to help him get a new career. He certainly won't be allowed to report again.

PHILLIP

If he wants a career, he should enlist.

ELLEN

Enlist? Phil, dear. He needs to be here with the both of us.

(ELLEN  
vanishes.  
The actor  
should  
stand up  
and walk  
off  
stage.  
Phil does  
not  
notice as  
he is too  
busy  
looking  
off at  
Canada.)

PHILLIP

Freeloading Canadians ... Ellen, do you think our deadbeat can claim citizenship over there?  
We're so close I could throw a rock at them.

(PHILLIP notices that ELLEN has vanished)

Ellen? Ellen! ... Ellen! ...

(PHILLIP  
runs off  
the stage  
leaving  
the phone  
behind as  
it starts  
to ring.)

HARRISON (Scared)

Mom? Dad? I hope you're hearing this. Something happened. I just got a text from Amanda at the paper. She said ... she said people are vanishing ... Half of the newsroom disappeared in front of her and she's the only one left. I'll get to Ogdensburgh as fast as I can ...

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)